

**B. FOOD ASSISTANCE STANDARDS**

**Purpose:** This section includes the income standards that are used for determining eligibility. It explains which assistance units must meet the gross and net income tests and which do not.

**WAC 388-478-0060 What are my income limits for food assistance?**

So long as your assistance unit (AU) meets other eligibility requirements for food assistance benefits, your AU must have income at or below the limits in columns (B) and (C) to get food assistance, unless you meet one of the exceptions listed below:

EFFECTIVE 10-1-00				
Column A Household Size	Column B Maximum Gross Monthly Income	Column C Maximum Net Monthly Income	Column D Maximum Allotment	Column E 165% of the Poverty Level
1	\$ 905	\$ 696	\$130	\$1,149
2	1,219	938	238	1,547
3	1,533	1,180	341	1,946
4	1,848	1,421	434	2,345
5	2,162	1,663	515	2,744
6	2,476	1,905	618	3,142
7	2,790	2,146	683	3,541
8	3,104	2,388	781	3,940
9	3,419	2,630	879	4,339
10	3,734	2,872	977	4,738
Each Additional Member	+315	+242	+98	+399

**Exceptions:**

- (1) If your AU is categorically eligible as defined in WAC 388-414-0001, your income will not have to be below the gross or net income standards in columns (B) and (C) to decide if you are eligible. However, we will budget the AU's income to decide the amount of food assistance your AU will receive.
- (2) If your AU includes a member who is sixty years of age or older or has a disability, your income must be at or below the limit in column (C) only.
- (3) If you are sixty years of age or older and are unable to purchase and prepare your own meals because of a permanent disability, we will use column (E) to determine if you can be a separate food assistance unit.
- (4) If your AU has zero income you will receive the maximum allotment amount, based on your household size in Column (D).

**CLARIFYING INFORMATION:**

1. The federal government establishes the income and resources standards. The income standards usually change each year and are effective October 1.
2. The income eligibility standards<sup>1</sup> represent the following:
  - a. Gross income standard is 130 percent of the federal poverty level.
  - b. Net income standard is 100 percent of the federal poverty level.

**WORKER RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Deny or terminate benefits when an assistance unit's income exceeds the applicable income standards. See WAC 388-450-0245 in **INCOME** when an increase in income causes the assistance unit to be ineligible for one month.

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<sup>1</sup>These standards are based on the poverty level for the 48 contiguous states. It excludes Alaska and Hawaii because of a higher cost of living.

**165 Percent Standard**

Deny separate household status for an elderly and permanently disabled person when the combined income of others (excluding the person's spouse) living in the household exceed this standard. The spouse must be included in the food assistance household. See

**ASSISTANCE UNITS**